When Alfred Sleeps

By

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EXT.NIGHTMARE.DUSK

ALFRED VOICE (OFFSCREEN)
Ive never gotten used to it. The dreams, well, nightmares. If thats even what you want to call it. It usually starts off when i lay down, I forget about the world around me. Then i wake up, but not in my bed. Somewhere in my head or something. I hear growls, footsteps, then thats followed by a scream. Exactly 3 minutes after the scream, i sense something chasing me, so i run.

CUT TO

ALFRED begins to sprint.
I never know what, and it doesnt matter wheat, because it gets me every time. After that, i wake up. In my real bed.

CUT TO

(slowmotion)

ALFRED wakes up in his bed sweaty and freaking out.
and spend the rest of the night trying to fall asleep. But i never do.

CUT TO

ALFRED running again.
This happens every night. I’m always asked when it began, I don’t know when it began. All i know is i cant wait until it ends.

Whatever is chasing ALFRED catches him.

CUT TO

INT.ALFRED’S BEDROOM.BEFORE DAWN

ALFRED shoots straight up in his bed, sweating and panting heavily. After he calms down and catches his breath he rest his back against the head board.

TIME LAPSE OF ALFRED IN BED 3 A.M TO 6 UNTIL SUN SHOWS THROUGH WINDOW

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED lays in bed on his side with his eyes fixed on the light coming through the window.

SARAH opens the door and stands at the bedroom entrance yawning, still in bed clothes.

ALAYNA
are you awake?

ALFRED
when am i not.

ALAYNA
well you know I like thinking one day Ill come in here and you'll still be sleeping.

ALFRED
maybe.

ALAYNA
do you want something to eat?

ALFRED is still locked on the window and hasn't moved.

ALAYNA
cereal?...toast?....eggs?...baco-

ALFRED
yea.

ALAYNA
bacon it is.

ALAYNA exits the room.

DISSOLVE

INT.KITCHEN.MORNING

ALFRED walks into the kitchen. You hear bacon sizzling on the pan. SARAH is humming a tune and cooking.

ALAYNA
hey buck-o, bacons almost done.

ALFRED
thanks sis.

ALAYNA
(encouraging)
alfred youre gonna have to get a job soon. I mean mom and dad's will
(MORE)

ALAYNA (cont’d)
left us enough money to live off of for a while.

ALAYNA puts the bacon on a plate and brings it to ALFRED at the table.

ALFRED sighs.

ALAYNA
I know i know, im sorry i didn’t mean to bring them up. All im saying is that you-

ALFRED
need a life. trust me i know.

ALAYNA
(sympathetic)
I mean this isnt healthy for you. You’re 19 years old and you don’t hangout with people, or even go outside. I mean, mom and dad would kill me for saying this, but go to a party, go get drunk, go talk to girls. I mean it kills me watching you sit in this house everyday just rotting away.

ALFRED
trust me i know. ill try.

ALAYNA
promise me youll meet a friend this week.

ALFRED
ill try sarah

ALAYNA
no, promise me alfred. I mean it.

ALFRED
okay okay. i promise.

CUT TO

INT.ALFRED’S BEDROOM.MORNING

ALFRED is laying in bed doing nothing. ALAYNA walks in and sits on the bed next to ALFRED.

ALAYNA
I’m going to work. Want anything while I’m out?

ALFRED
i thought you were off?

ALAYNA
no its tuesday, i work during the week.

ALFRED
oh.

ALAYNA
remember what you promised?

ALFRED
i know. i will.

ALAYNA
okay, i love you.

ALFRED
love you too.

ALAYNA leaves ALFREDS room. ALFRED is staring off at nothing. You hear ALAYNAS vehicle leaves the driveway.

CUT TO

INT.LIVING ROOM.MORNING

ALFRED walks into the living room and walks past fireplace filled with family photos. ALFRED stands and looks at the pictures.

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO OF ALFREDS PARENTS

ALFRED gets a drink of water from the refrigerator.

CUT TO

INT.BEDROOM.MORNING

ALFRED sits down on his bed and sets his water down. ALFRED pulls the covers up. He looks out of his window before he fully lays down. ALFRED sighs and get up out of his bed.

CUT TO

EXT.HOUSE.DAY

ALFRED shuts the door to his house. ALFRED starts to walk away from his house. A voice is heard in the distance.

ISABELLA
hey!

ALFRED continues to walk.

ISABELLA
hey!

ALFRED turns around.

ALFRED
hey.

ISABELLA
do you live here?

ALFRED
no. i live there.

ALFRED points to his house.

ISABELLA
(laughing)
thats what i meant. we're moving into this house here.

ALFRED
oh, now i feel a little stupid.

ISABELLA
no its fine. benji's working his butt off moving everything.

ALFRED
who?

ISABELLA
benjamin, here i'll introduce you to him.

ALFRED
no, its fine i was actually heading-

ISABELLA
(calling benj over)
Benjamin!

BENJAMIN stops moving boxes and he walks over to ISABELLA and ALFRED.

ISABELLA
this is, oh i didnt get your name.

ALFRED
alfred.

ISABELLA
benjamin, alfred. alfred, benjamin.

BENJAMIN
hey man.

ALFRED gives off a slight grin and nod.

BENJAMIN
are you from around here?

ISABELLA
he lives right across from us.

ALFRED
yeah, ive lived here my whole life.

ISABELLA
wow then you’ll have to show us whats around here.

BENJAMIN
yeah man you should.

ALFRED
i dont really know of anything. im more of an inside person.

BENJAMIN
come on you have to know something around here to do.

ISABELLA
yeah atleast one thing.

ALFRED
no, i really dont. i know as much as you guys do.

ISABELLA
fine. then how about we go for a joy ride?

ALFRED
yeah, that sounds cool. let me know when.

ISABELLA
today, now. why not?

BENJAMIN
yeah lets do it. we’re gonna go exploring, now we have someone to do it with.

ISABELLA
yeah alfred come with us.

moment of silence BENJAMIN and ISABELLA are staring at ALFRED waiting for an answer.

ALFRED
uhhh...sure, why not.

ISABELLA
exactly! why not. this is gonna be fun. see benjamin, we already found a new friend.

BENJAMIN
yeah, quicker than i thought. wanna help me move these last few boxes alfred?

ALFRED
yeah, sure.

ALFRED, BENJAMIN, and ISABELLA all begin to walk towards the truck.

FADE

EXT.ISABELLAS YARD.DAY

BENJAMIN closes the bed of the truck.

BENJAMIN
well that was the last of it. how does it feel to be moved in?

ISABELLA
great, but we still have to unpack.

BENJAMIN
thats true.

BENJAMIN and ISABELLA start to get into the truck. ALFRED stands and kinda follows.

BENJAMIN
alfred are you coming?

ISABELLA
theres only 2 seats, let alfred sit up front benji.

BENJAMIN
okay alfred, looks like you get the big boys seat.

BENJAMIN begins to get into the back, ALFRED stops him.

ALFRED
id rather sit in the back.

BENJAMIN
are you sure?

ALFRED
yeah, i dont like riding in the front.

BENJAMIN
come on who doesnt like sitting in the front.

ALFRED
i’d just rather sit back.

ISABELLA
leave him alone benjamin, you heard him the first time.

(CONTINUED)

BENJAMIN
i know im giving him a hard time.

ALFRED gives a fake smile at BENJAMIN until he turns away from him, and then hops in the back of the truck.

ISABELLA sticks her head out of the window.

ISABELLA
just hang on alfred, okay?

ALFRED
ill be okay.

BENJAMIN
hang on, you know how girls drive.

ISABELLAS truck starts up and they back out of the driveway and she switches it to drive. There is a pause and then she takes off.

CUT

EXT.LAKE.DAY

ISABELLAS truck pulls up near the lake, it stops and ISABELLA and BENJAMIN get out of the truck.

ISABELLA
this looks like a good place.

BENJAMIN
this is private property.

ISABELLA
yeah thats the fun in it.

ALFRED gets out of the truck.

BENJAMIN
you’re alive i see.

ISABELLA
im not that bad of a driver.

BENJAMIN
(mimicking)
mm "not that bad".

ALFRED picks up a rock.

ISABELLA
whatever, youre still alive arent you.

BENJAMIN
barley.

ISABELLA
youre so dramatic.

ALFRED skips the rock across the lake. ISABELLA and BENJAMIN look over at him.

ISABELLA
ooo,i want to try.

ISABELLA picks tries to skip it across the water but it just sinks.

BENJAMIN
(jokingly)
nice one.

BENJAMIN picks up a rock and skips is across the water.

BENJAMIN
thats how its done.

ALFRED keeps skipping rocks.

ISABELLA
alfred how are you so good at that?

ALFRED
im not sure.

ISABELLA
how do you do it?

ALFRED
you just, throw it.

ISABELLA picks up another rock and throws it.

ALFRED
well not like that. you have to get level with the water. like this.

ALFRED picks up a rock and slowly does the motion.

ALFRED
then just throw it.

ISABELLA
okay let me try again.

ISABELLA throws another rock then fails.

BENJAMIN
nothings gonna help her trust me.

ISABELLA
shut up.

ALFRED
no you have to kinda, sling it.

ISABELLA picks up a rock and skips it once.

ISABELLA
that was so close!

ALFRED
that was close.

ISABELLA goes again and fully skips a rock.

ALFRED
there you go.

ISABELLA
(to BENJAMIN)
i always prove you wrong.

ISABELLA gives BENJAMIN a playful punch.

Everyone starts skipping rocks.

BENJAMIN
you guys wanna play a game?

ISABELLA
what game.

BENJAMIN
who ever throws the shortest distance, has to jump into the lake.

BENJAMIN picks up a rock.

ISABELLA
sure why not. wanna play alfred?

clearly ALFRED doesnt wanna play but he agrees anyways.

ALFRED
ahh, sure.

ISABELLA
okay. So benjamin, when does this game begin.

BENJAMIN
starting now.

ISABELLA
what!

ISABELLA and ALFRED hurry to pick up a rock.

BENJAMIN
go!

everyone throws.

BENJAMIN throws the shortest.

ISABELLA
thats what you get for trying to cheat.

BENJAMIN
no wait lets redo it.

ISABELLA
no a deal is a deal, you wanted to play this.

BENJAMIN
im not going in there.

ISABELLA
alfred what do you think he should do?

ALFRED
i think he threw the shortest so its only fair if he jumps in.

ISABELLA and ALFRED laugh because BENJAMIN is scared.

BENJAMIN
i dont like jumping into water if its not clear.

ISABELLA
youre always scared of that, theres nothing in there. you act like we are in middle of the ocean.

BENJAMIN
how do you know?

ISABELLA
because im about to jump in.

ISABELLA takes off running. BENJAMIN looks at ALFRED.

BENJAMIN
she wont do it.

ISABELLA reaches the lake and jumps in.

ALFRED
she did it.

ISABELLA yells to the boys from the water.

ISABELLA
youre such a baby! this feels amazing! Guys come on!

ALFRED and BENJAMIN look at eachother.

BENJAMIN
im not getting in there man. are you?

ALFRED
i dont know.

BENJAMIN
come on dude, if you go then ill have to go. i will literally have an anxiety attack.

ISABELLA (O.S)
babies! Wahhhh wahhh! Wahhhh! Wahh! oh wait im sorry, i forgot babies cant swim! babies cant even walk! wahhh! wahhh!

BENJAMIN
alfred, hello?

ALFRED
im gonna do it.

BENJAMIN
dont give into her peer press-

ALFRED starts sprinting towards the water.

BENJAMIN
(scared/anxious)
god dangit.

BENJAMIN starts running towards the water.

ISABELLA
oh look! babies can run!

ALFRED jumps into the water and then BENJAMIN shortly after.

ALFRED comes up from the water (shows that hes having fun)

BENJAMIN comes up from the water.

BENJAMIN
(freaking out)
oh my god i cant believe im in here. i hate this so much.

ISABELLA
(freaking out)
OH MY GOD HELP, HELP!

BENJAMIN and ALFRED look scared.

BENJAMIN
what??!

ISABELLA
(freaking out)
it has my foot! HELP!

BENJAMIN starts sprinting out of the water. He reaches land and turns around.

BENJAMIN
(to ISABELLA)
why are you not running?!

ISABELLA
im just joking you big baby.

BENJAMIN
oh my god thats not funny isabella.

BENJAMIN shows releif.

ISABELLA
and really ben? "why am i not running?" if something was grabbing my foot how could i run away?

BENJAMIN
whatever, i was gonna help you.

ISABELLA
when was that you baby?

BENJAMIN
you know what, forget this!

BENJAMIN starts running and jumps in. ISABELLA screams and starts laughing.

BENJAMIN is playfully shaking ISABELLA.

BENJAMIN
do you still need help? huh? do you need help!

ALFRED smiles as the sibling like friends play.

CUT

EXT.LAKE.DAY

ALFRED, ISABELLA and BENJAMIN are all sitting at the edge of the lake, drying off.

BENJAMIN
i have to admit that was really fun.

ISABELLA
did you finally overcome that stupid fear of yours?

BENJAMIN
psh, no.

ALFRED
thats the most fun ive had this whole year.

ISABELLA
alfred, i was gonna ask you but dont get offended cause i know we just met, but why dont you have friends? i mean you know how to have fun, obviously we can tell already.

ALFRED
im just really quiet and, weird.

BENJAMIN
weird people are the best man.

ALFRED
no, theres weird people, then theres me. i have alot of issues that i never really tell anyone.

ISABELLA
we all have issues alfred, who doesnt?

ALFRED
yeah i know that. But i just lose alot of sleep.

ISABELLA
what do you mean?

ALFRED
okay dont judge me guys. ive only told one other person this besides my sister, and he was a doctor. All the other doctors ive lied to just cause i didnt want to sound crazy.

BENJAMIN
we wont judge you man, let us hear it.

ISABELLA
alfred why would we judge you? just know from here on out, in this friendship, we share everything with no judgment ever attatched.

ALFRED nods and takes a deep breath.

ALFRED
(gets emotional)
okay. so for about the past year, i started getting this nightmare, where i wake up, alone, in this dark world. Its always the same spot, every single time. No matter how many times i go to sleep, its the *same* nightmare, and the *same* spot. now once i wake up, in this nightmare, something starts chasing me. Whatever it is, its the worst
(MORE)

ALFRED (cont'd)
thing i could possibly imagine, so i start running. I never look back cause i dont want to know, i dont want to see it. No matter how fast i run, it gets me everytime. Then i wake up. At 2 a.m, every morning.

ISABELLA
(sympathetic)
jesus alfred. this must be taking a toll on you.

ALFRED nods.

BENJAMIN
what do *you* think it is alfred?

ALFRED
i dont know. It feels so real that sometimes i wonder if its another place where i actually live when i fall asleep.

ISABELLA
thats really scary alfred.

ALFRED zones out into the lake, you can see that something is bothering him like usual.

ALFRED
i uh, i don't know. Ive been to every type of doctor you could think of, nothing. And sleeping medication doesn't help it just makes me feel drowsy.

ISABELLA
what have the doctors said?

ALFRED
they dont know what to say.

BENJAMIN
you can lose sleep if theres something that has been bothering you, maybe its something like that?

ISABELLA
yeah do you know of anything that could be bothering you in the back of your mind?

ALFRED
no. no its not that.

ISABELLA
are you sure alfred? i mean its not really my business but-

ALFRED
no, its not that trust me. I would know. Its just an issue ive been dealing with.

Theres a pause and ALFRED zones out for a little in his own world.

ISABELLA
well, just know me and benjamin are always here for you, we dont have many friends ourselves.

BENJAMIN gives a reassuring nod.

ALFRED
thanks guys.

CUT TO

EXT.HOUSE.MID DAY

ISABELLA, BENJAMIN and ALFRED all in the truck, pull into ISABELLAS yard. They begin to get out, alfred gets out of the back.

ISABELLA
next